

Dear members of the Transportation Committee,

I am writing in support of #SB4, an important tool to help Connecticut tackle the climate crisis. An crucial part of this bill would add ebike rebates to the #CHEAPR program. I have owned an ebike for almost two months and have used it regularly to replace my car. In less than two months, I have ridden nearly 150 miles for transportation purposes, each mile replacing a mile I would have driven. I anticipate increasing my rate of ebike usage to replace my car as I begin commuting to work more regularly and am out and about more in the spring and summer months.

I'm asking the committee to add ebikes to #CHEAPR because I have seen how ebikes can reduce vehicle miles traveled, and I believe we need to make ebikes accessible to everyone, especially those in lower income brackets. Ebikes are an invaluable tool in our fight to address the climate crisis and to improve air quality and thereby improve the health of Connecticut residents. Ebikes are safer than cars, significantly cheaper and easier to use than cars, and their use promotes cyclists' health and well-being. Ebikes allow people who may not have the physical strength or ability to ride a regular bike to take up cycling for transportation.

Switching to electric cars offers many benefits, but if Connecticut can encourage people to switch from cars to bicycles, the benefits are even greater. My ebike has transformed my life, and as many Connecticut residents as possible should have a similar opportunity open to them. Offering financial incentives by adding ebikes to the #CHEAPR program is the most effective way to accomplish this.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hussey
Bethel, Connecticut